

MANTIS GONGYLODES.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Caput nutans, maxillosum, palpis instructum.

Antennæ (plerisque) setaceæ.

Alæ quatuor, membranaceæ, (plerisque) convolutæ; inferiores plicatæ.

Pedes antici compressi, subtus ferrato-denticulati, armati ungue solitario et digito setaceo laterali articulato. Postici quatuor læves, gressorii.

Thorax linearis, elongatus, angustatus.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 689.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

MANTIS thorace linearí utrinque dilatato, femoribus anticis spina terminatis, reliquis lobo.

MANTIS GONGYLODES.

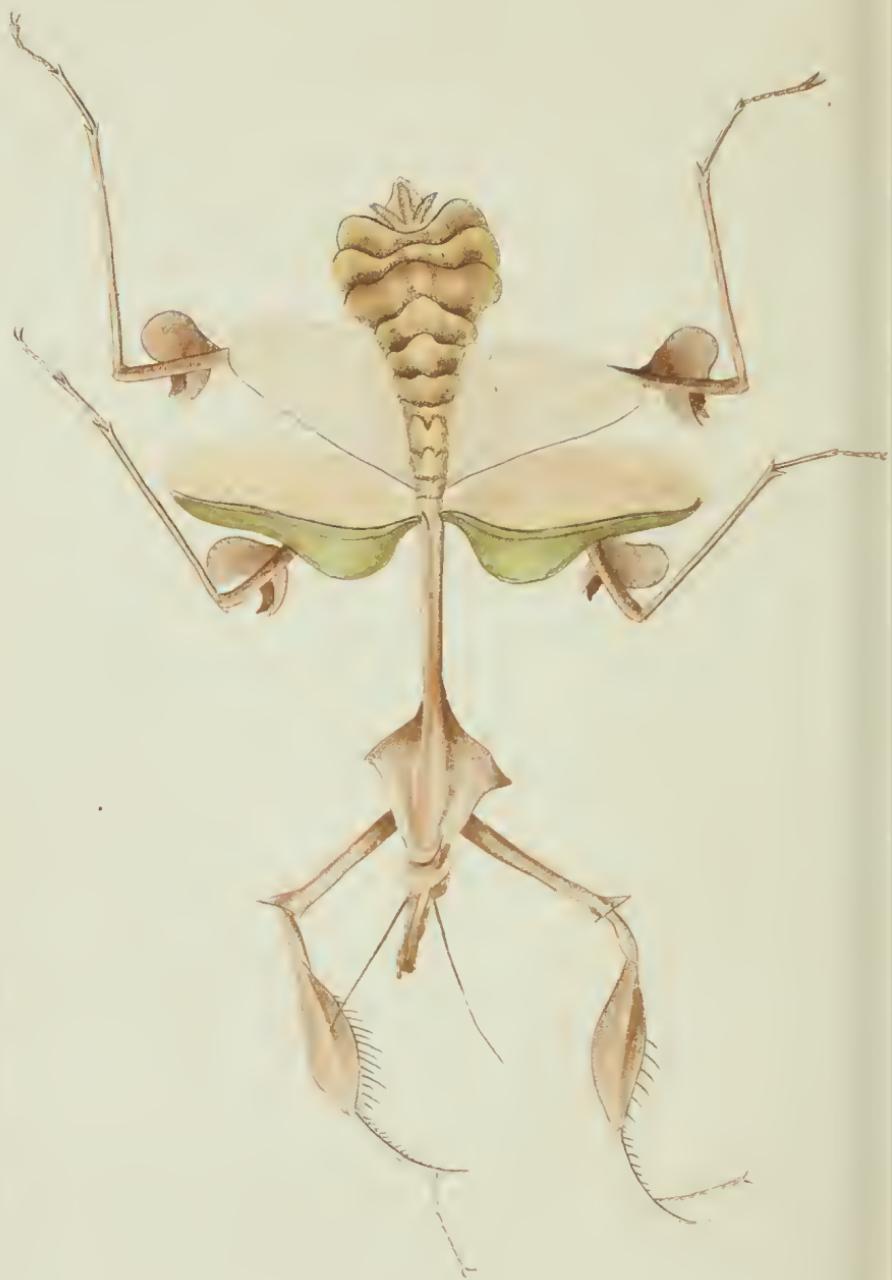
Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 690.

GAAYRA.

Marcgr. bras. 246.

In generanda Manti gongylode pene putemus primo visu lusisse Naturam, membraque ei non ad auxilium sed ad impedimentum dedisse. At ulterius quærentes

quærentes benigne ei consultum fuisse fatebimur; tantum enim abest ut incommodo sit monstrosa hæc et inconveniens, quæ videtur, partium dispositio, ut exinde etiam magna utilitas exoriatur. Præda vivit more reliqui generis, cui facilius arripiendæ inservit brachiorum magna longitudo, latetque inter ramos ipsa Mantis securior visuque difficilior ob alarum colorem et quasi foliatam similitudinem, ne quid dicam dicam de crurum et thoracis summa exilitate. Antennæ, quæ in plurimis speciminibus simplices omnino et more fili deducuntur, in nonnullis pulchre pectinantur. Utrum differentia sit vere specifica, an sexualis tantum, (quod verisimile videtur) difficile est pro certo statuere. Notandum porro est in Sebæ figuris non modo hujus speciei sed et Mantis strumariæ antennas interdum pectinari. Si viva posset inspici Mantis gongylodes, color fortasse ei longe esset vividior: mortuæ idem plerumque est ac in tabula. Innascitur in variis partibus Asiacæ et Africæ.



THE
LONG-BREASTED MANTIS.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Head unsteady; mouth armed with jaws, and furnished with palpi.

Antennæ setaceous, (some few species excepted.)

Wings four, membranaceous, in most species convoluted: the lower ones (generally) plicated.

Feet anterior compressed, ferrated beneath, armed with a lateral solitary claw and jointed process; *posterior* four, smooth, formed for walking.

Thorax (in most species) elongated and narrowed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

MANTIS with linear thorax dilated on each side, the fore thighs terminated by a spine, the other lobated.

Roes. inf. 2. gryll. t. 7.

D'Aubent. pl. enl. 65. f. 2.

Drury inf. 1. pl 56. f. 2.

The Mantis gongylodes is an insect of so singular an appearance, that it seems, at first view, as if formed

formed by a caprice of Nature, and appears to be incommoded by the strange and uncouth disproportion of its limbs, and the awkwardness of its form. All these seeming incongruities, however, are in reality calculated for the natural habits and modes of life to which the animal is destined; and, instead of proving a disadvantage to it, are, on the contrary, the powerful means of its support. Like the rest of its congeners, it is of a predacious nature; and the great length of its fore-legs enables it readily to seize and manage the smaller insects on which it feeds; while its color and the leaf-like appearance of its wings, with the extreme gracity of its thorax and legs, make it less easily distinguished amongst the vegetables on which it resides, and thus give it the advantage of obtaining its prey the more readily. The antennæ, which in most specimens are simple and filiform, are in others elegantly pectinated; whether this be really a specific difference, or merely a sexual one, it is not easy to determine. It is also to be observed, that in the figures of Seba, this species, as well as the *Mantis strumaria*, is sometimes represented with pectinated antennæ. Tho' the *Mantis gongylodes* is generally of the color represented in the plate, yet when living it is probably of a much greener cast: it is a native of many parts of Asia and Africa.